

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of this preliminary amendment. If the Examiner has any questions or matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

Date: 12-31-03



Maurice J. Pirio

Registration No. 33,273

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 25096

Perkins Coie LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000